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"THE POST" AND THE CHURCH.

The average Eastern editor knows so little about Utah and the "Mormons" and of the general subject of "Mormonism," that he rarely touches on the subject without displaying either an unwarranted bitterness of spirit or a lamentable lack of correct information. Here is the Washington Post, published at the seat of government, displaying such mingled ignorance and folly as to cause wonder and hilarity among people who are posted. That paper in times past has manifested some fairness in touching on Utah affairs, and a desire to state facts as far as it was able to obtain them. But lately it has fallen into the not uncommon habit of eastern journals of making rash statements, unsupported by evidence, and commenting upon them as though they were the truth. We are sorry to see this change, because the Post is an able and influential paper.

In a recent article, the Post pretends alarm at the wonderful influence wielded by "Mormonism" in Congress, particularly on two public questions. It says: "Mormonism is supporting the Statehood bill at both ends of the Capitol." And further, that "Mormon interests are hostile to the Philippine tariff bill, because of the rapid growth of the beet sugar industry in Utah, Idaho and other sections of the far West where the Mormon Church is strong." And the Post jumps at the conclusion that "each measure will be defeated in the Senate, and Mormonism more than any other factor will be responsible for it."

What do you think of that? There is one "Mormon" in the Senate and one in the House. Both are Republicans, elected by the votes of citizens of their party. What is to give them such a wonderful, preponderant influence in either or both houses of Congress? If either, or both of them favor or oppose any public measure, what would "Mormonism" have to do with the matter? If a Presbyterian Senator or Representative shows great interest in any public measure, does that prove that Presbyterianism has a powerful influence in Congress? Cannot a Catholic vote for or against a bill of any kind, without being influenced by Catholicism? The Post ought to know better than to indulge in such remarks, no matter how strong may be its antipathy to "Mormonism," about which it evidently knows little or nothing. It may be hostile, but it ought not to be silly.

The reason the Post assigns for the support it alleges "Mormonism" is giving to the Statehood bill is that: "It has been learned at the Department of Justice that the practice of polygamy is so common among the Mormons of Arizona and New Mexico, that the government already has secured convictions of fifteen cases in Arizona and seventeen cases in New Mexico."

We fear that the Post has been drawing upon its own imagination, or from some unfounded rumor, instead of the Department of Justice for its information. On this point, the Department does not show one case of polygamy, either in Arizona or New Mexico. The Post does not seem to understand the distinction, established by the Edmunds law, between polygamy, which is the marrying of plural wives, and the different offense of living in the plural family relation.

There are a few persons living in Arizona who married plural wives many years ago, and against whom prosecutions were instituted for the offense known as "unlawful cohabitation." There were nine cases in all. One of them was found not guilty, the others were sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 each. They were not charged with polygamy. There were no cases either of one offense or the other in New Mexico. The Post can verify this statement by fair investigation. The particulars were published in the Prescott (Arizona) Herald, and in the Salt Lake papers of December 20, 1905. The light fines imposed were in consequence of the facts we have mentioned, that the plural marriages were entered into many years ago, and the court took all the circumstances into consideration. If they had been cases of polygamy, the penalty would not doubt have been in accordance with the law, which inflicts a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for five years. So much for that.

The Post is equally away off the track in its assertions about the "Mormon" Church and the beet sugar interests. It says:

"It is a fact of vast significance to the politics of the Northwest, that the beet sugar industry is almost completely under the control of high officials of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith, head of the Church, is the active president of seven big sugar factories in Utah, three in Idaho and many numerous others either projected or actually under construction, in Wyoming, Montana, Oregon and Nevada. Many millions of dollars have been invested in these factories, and many more millions are ready to be put in new plants. A large part, if not practically all, of this capital was raised by the Mormon Church titling system."

The Post could easily have obtained the facts concerning this important industry in the West, if it had been disposed to do so. "Joseph Smith, the head of the Mormon Church" died sixty-two years ago, Joseph F. Smith, the present president, does not preside

over any sugar "factory." He is the president of one sugar company in Utah and one in Idaho, and has been named as president of another sugar company in contemplation in western Idaho. There are just two sugar factories in Utah and three in Idaho, with which he is associated.

The sugar industry in this region was started by the leading men of the "Mormon" Church, who vainly endeavored to induce men of capital, except a few, to embark in the then doubtful enterprise. The Church authorities put some money in it with the laudable purpose to provide remunerative labor for farmers and working people, and to demonstrate the feasibility of making sugar at home instead of buying it from abroad. The Utah Sugar company always had its stock upon the market, and when the success of the enterprise was assured, money flowed in until the company now has a capital of \$6,000,000, in which the Church owns less than one per cent. The Western Idaho prospective company is capitalized for \$2,000,000, of which the Church has less than one-fourth of one per cent. The Church has no financial interests in any sugar factories or projects in Wyoming, or Montana, or Oregon or Nevada, and it has no "millions (or millions) of dollars invested" in any of the concerns that give so much concern to the Washington Post.

Such influence as the "Mormon" Church and some of the "Mormon" leaders have exercised in the establishment of the beet sugar industry in this State and in Idaho, has been of the most beneficial character. It has been the most profitable for farmers and laborers of any enterprise that has been built up on this slope. The farmers and other workers have been greatly enriched, and large amounts of money that would have been sent away to distant points for the purchase of sugar, have been distributed at home for the benefit of all classes among whom it circulates. The sum paid out for the culture of sugar beets during the year 1905 in Utah alone was no less than \$100,000,000. This does not include wages for manufacture. Large amounts of Eastern capital are invested in the companies which conduct these enterprises, and the shareholders are well satisfied with their dividends. The stock in them is now on the market and the Washington Post can buy either preferred or common stock, the former being placed at \$10 per share. But it is now at a slight premium.

"Mormonism" has no more to do with the Philippine bill or the Statehood bill than it has to do with the ebb and flow of the tides. The gentlemen elected to the Congress of the United States do not occupy their places to represent "Mormonism," but to support such measures as they deem for the best interests of the country and of the State which sent them there by the free suffrages of the citizens. If the Post cares to learn and wants to tell the truth on these subjects, it can obtain correct information by applying to authentic sources, but will never be guided aright by the ravings of rabid and conscienceless anti-"Mormon" preachers and papers.

IDENTIFICATION.

How easily mistakes can be made in the matter of identifying persons, especially if someone is very anxious to make the identification. It is illustrated in a recent incident. A New York letter carrier was suspected of having passed a check that had been stolen from the mails and embellished with a forged endorsement. The poor fellow was arrested. Then he was identified by one business man and three saleswomen as the individual who had passed the check. The letter carrier, however, was able to prove that at the time this shopkeeper and his three clerks testified that he visited his store, the carrier was attending a funeral, and he could prove an alibi which cleared him so completely that he was awarded \$3,500 in damages for false imprisonment. So much for the value of some identifications, when financial interests are involved. Here was a reputable businessman testifying to the presence of this letter carrier in his store at a certain time. And he was backed up by three other witnesses—enough to send a man to his death. And yet they were all proved to be mistaken. The story shows the absolute necessity of caution in such cases.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

A few days ago the czar, notwithstanding the torrents of blood that are flowing around him during the process of "pacification" now going on, found time, and heart, to give a gala luncheon at his palace. During the course of the function the German Kaiser, whose birthday anniversary it was, in terms that have been interpreted to mean that Russia and Germany now are allies.

The ceremony seems to have been made as impressive as possible. According to the reports, Nicholas lifted his glass and said slowly and distinctly, as if weighing every word, "I drink to the health of the Emperor of Germany and the King of Prussia, my brother and very dear friend." Then, in order to make it still more dramatic, he turned to the German ambassador, grasped him by the hand and said: "Brother is more than ally."

To an ordinary observer of passing events, the incident may not appear extraordinary, but the wise ones interpret it to mean that Russia's relations with Germany are now more intimate than those with France, the "ally." It has been commonly understood. It is said that Germany and Russia have been drawn more closely together than formerly, and the Emperor's toast is taken as a confirmation of this.

The alliance between France and Russia, though necessitated by the triple alliance, was unnatural. France, as far as known, reaped no benefit from it. Russia, on the other hand, used it as a pretext for obtaining financial aid in France. Russia's military power being completely exposed during the Japanese war, France can have no ob-

ject in maintaining the former relations with the empire. The friendship between the autocrat and the republic certainly cooled many degrees during that war. Germany, on the other hand supported Russia in every way possible.

Germany has for years tried to become more closely associated with her northern neighbor, but French influences have prevailed. If a change really has taken place, it is to be feared that it is not for the benefit of the liberal ideas for which the Russians now are making a gallant struggle. Russia and Germany in conjunction may prove disastrous to the cause of democracy.

POLAND AROUSED.

The editor of the official organ of the Polish National Alliance contributes an article to the Chicago Record-Herald concerning the affairs of his unfortunate country. He says the Poles have at last been aroused from their indifference, and now they demand autonomy.

A large convention of farmers, he says, was recently held in Warsaw. Over 1,500 villages, or communes, were represented and patriotic speeches were made by many. A series of resolutions were adopted, requesting the following privileges:

"A diet in Warsaw, with representatives elected by equal and universal suffrage without any restriction as to birth, race or religion."

"A local administration composed exclusively of Poles with headquarters in Warsaw."

"Responsibility of the administration before the diet."

The writer in the Chicago paper mentioned is of the opinion that the convention is looked upon in Russia as the most important manifestation of the will of the Polish people since the beginning of the political revival in Poland, in spite of a few industrial centers, as Warsaw, Lodz, and Sosnowice. It is to be feared that the Russian government will refuse to listen to this petition from the Polish population. But Poland could safely be granted the same measure of autonomy that Finland enjoys, and Russia would, by concessions, make friends of the Poles, instead of keeping them in a perpetual state of enmity. The gain would be mutual.

Mr. Spay and his enemies' suspicions have both been confirmed.

"Some days must be dark and dreary," of course, but why so many?

Will the railroad rate war now on in Congress extend to the railroads?

The weather man doesn't seem to be keeping his weather eye open these days.

General Griaznov was "canned" as only the Russian revolutionists can "can" people.

Senator Warren now knows that the house has some rights that even a senator must respect.

The Standard of revolt won. The court has decided that H. H. Rogers doesn't have to answer.

To be able to say "I don't have to," is only less satisfactory than being able to say, "I told you so."

Another midshipman has been dismissed from the naval academy. "Slowly, one by one, the roses fall."

Marshall Field's estate is valued at \$75,000,000. When Jay Gould died his estate was valued at \$71,000,000. What will Mr. Carnegie's and Mr. Rockefeller's be valued at?

The Springfield Republican says that the leading New England railroads now sell 1,000-mile ticket books, which are transferable, at the same price of \$20 formerly charged for similar books that were not transferable.

"The latest thing in the way of pets in London are marmosets, a small kind of monkey. A number of the so-called 'smart' society women are petting them now instead of foot dogs," says an exchange. The dogs are not the fools.

A railroad is to be built to the top of Mount Blanc, for the benefit of tourists. If the See-America-first movement is to compete with this enterprise, its managers will have to build a road to the top of Mount Shasta, for instance. It will never do to let Europe outdo us.

Andy Hamilton, so the investigating committee, claims, has accounted for all the moneys he received from the New York Life Insurance company. If he has told "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," his narrative should be the best of the "six best sellers."

It now appears that George Baneroff wrote Andrew Johnson's first message to Congress. Alexander Hamilton wrote Washington's "Farewell Address." John Quincy Adams wrote Monroe's Monroe doctrine message, and Francis Bacon wrote William Shakespeare's plays. Did any one ever write anything himself?

IN RUSSIA.

Pueblo Chieftain.
It does not appear to be the case in Russia that the temporal power has fallen under control of the church authorities. The vigorous autocracy has brooked no opposition, or interference from the church, but on the contrary the state church, that is to say the Greek Catholic organization, has fallen under control of the imperial authorities, and the power of the church has been used to promote the interests of political tyranny.

BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

Wall Street Journal.
The methods of Wall street are so extraordinary as sometimes to be beyond comprehension. Wall street will take infinite pains in safeguarding a transaction of a few thousand dollars, and yet will go into deals involving millions with its eyes shut. Provided the risks are large enough, there is apparently no limit to the amount of money that Wall street will sometimes provide with scarcely a moment's

consideration. It would not invest \$10,000 in real estate without careful consideration or search, but it will buy a railroad offhand.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The opening article of the Improvement Era for February is on the "Atonement." It is by John G. McQuarrie. Prof. Willard Dore contributes a story on "An Adventure in Cliff Canyon." This is followed by another installment of George Ludington Weeds' "Life of St. Paul for the Young." "A New Year's Shrine," by Susan Young Gates is concluded in this number. "Die Sieges-Alliee," a translation from the German, is continued. This feature is edited by Lydia Alder. Susan Young Gates also gives the first installment of her description of the "Memorial Monument Dedication." "A Tottering Empire" is the subject of a paper by Dr. J. M. Tanner. "Prayer in Dedication of the Memorial Monument," offered by President Joseph F. Smith, is given. Elder Joseph F. Smith, Jr., contributes, under the caption "Oney Counsel," a reply to Mr. Frederick M. Smith of the "Reorganized" church. This is a very interesting article, proving without the possibility of successful contradiction that Frederick Smith condemns the speakers of the Church for preaching the self-same doctrine of obedience that he preaches. Elder Joseph F. Smith, Jr., concludes his paper by a quotation from the Prophet Joseph. Mr. F. Smith carefully avoids any reference to the teachings of the Prophet. On "The Editors Table" will be found a good "Lesson for the Boys," by President Joseph F. Smith; also, "Correction" and "Messages from the Missions." The number concludes with "Events and Comments," by Edward H. Anderson—Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

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